

James Edward Francis [Stuart], Prince

Old Pretender

James Stuart

Wales, called
Pretender.

DECLARATION 3

OF James the third King of England, Scotland and Ireland, &c.

To all his Subjects of the three Nations and to all foreign Princes and States to serve as a foundation for a lasting peace in Europe.

JAMES REX.



THE obligations which we owe to our own honour and to the safety and tranquility of our native Country, which Above all ty's is the dearest to us, and the tenderest: the steps which are so apparently taken to enslave our people: the late un-exampled violation of the freedom of Elections by which the British Constitution is entirely subverted; and a new sort of Tyranny introduced unknown to any other Nation: conspiracies invented on purpose to give pretence for new Oppressions, and to arm the Nation against it self, at a time when it was well known all attempts were imaginary and impracticable: the Lives, Liberty's, and fortunes of our Subjects at the mercy of infamous informers, cruelly exposed every day to subornation and perjury, and every honest well meaning man in a state of proscription.

These and many other considerations of the highest importance to the repose and Security of our people, exciting our compassion have engaged us to enter seriously into ourself, to examine and consult our heart what sacrifice to make on our part for the publick peace, and to consider earnestly of some method of restoring tranquility, especially to those Kingdoms of which we are the natural and undoubted Father.

To expresse there fore and signify in the most publick manner our ardent desire to compose all present differences, and to avert all future Evils; that no blame may be now, or hereafter imputed to us, but that whatever Calamity's shall

happen may be onely and soly chargeable upon the obstinacy or ambition of others, we declare that provided the Elector of Hanover will deliver quietly to us the possession of our own Kingdoms, we will make no inquisition for any thing that is past; we will acknowledge him in the same dignity of King in his native Dominions, inviting all other Princes and States to do the same, we will live in brotherly amity with him, and contribute all our endeavours to establish him, and his family in prosperity and Royal Grandeur, where an un-contested right will free him from the Crime and Reproach of Tyranny and Usurpation, and a quiet conscience make a Crown sit easy upon his head: leaving at the same time his succession to our Dominions secure, whenever in due Course his natural right Shall take place.

Let him compare a calm undisturbed Reign over a willing and obedient people his natural born Subjects, with the restless unquiet possession of an Usurper in a strange Land, where authority forcing the inclinations of the people, can only be supported by blood, violence, and rapine; eternally Subject to fears and alarms, even when no danger appears. for guilt can never rest. Let him consider a fixt and solid Establishment of Regal power in him self and his posterity, exposed to no chance, with the frail and uncertain settlement of an usurped title, which must and Shall, whilst we have breath, or any Descendants in being, be for ever disputed. Let him reflect that the Divine Justice never fails sooner or later to chastise the oppressor, and to redress the innocent and injur'd. Instead of advising with an Imperious Ministry, as much his Tyrants as the Nations, Let him consult his reason, let him ask his conscience, let him examine his interest and his glory, nay his very ambition will advise him to descend from a throne, which must be always Shaking, to mount another where his seat will be firm and secure.

We conjure all Christian Princes and States to be ayding and assisting to us in this our just and amicable proposal, whereby without effusion of blood, or any national or publick disturbance, justice may be done to an injur'd Prince, and an Equivalent provided sufficient to content an aspiring one.

As a farther inducement to all Christian Powers to enter more seriously and deliberately into this important proposition, we offer our-self to make good on our part all such alliances as have been already contracted with our Kingdoms, conducive to the peace and tranquility of Europe, and to enter into any new ones, that may be judged necessary for the farther strengthening and securing thereof.

That there may likewise remain no objection from the fears and apprehensions of any one man in our own dominions, conscious of having offended against us, we promise a full, free, and universal pardon to all persons of whatever degree or condition within our Realms, without any exception, who Shall in any reasonable time return to their allegiance, or by any act and deed, advice or otherwise effectually contribute to Such a happy accommodation as may put a period to all our private and publick misfortunes: that every English man may hereafter live quietly under his own Shade, enjoy his conscience undisturbed, and rest upon his pillow in peace.

We protest solemnly before God, and man that nothing can be proposed to us to make our Kingdoms happy and flourishing, and to quiet the minds of all men, but we will Strive with the most zealous to promote.

Our desire is to embrace the whole body of our people without any distinction or reserve, to root up the very seeds of prejudice and division, That all notes of discord, separation, or difference of partys, and all reproachfull denominations may be for ever extinguish'd, and that the King and his people may have but one mind, one heart and one interest.

That humanity, that love of our Country, and that good will to all men which we make the rule of our actions, prompt and incline us in first place to the ways of mercy and peace.

It is therefore that waving all present application to foreign powers, who considering how much in reality our cause is their own, might reasonably be induced to aid us in vindicating that majesty which they behold oppress'd and

affronted in our person, and sacrificing all resentment, passion, or desire of Revenge, to the publick good, we now seek and condescend to shake hands, even with those who have most injur'd us.

Given at our Court at Lucca this present tenth of September 1722. and in the twenty first year of our Reign.

P O S T S C R I P T.

JAMES REX.

Since we first propos'd to publish this our Declaration to the world, it is come to our knowledge that divers of our Subjects continue dayly to be question'd and imprison'd upon pretence of intelligence with us: That informers, Spy's, and false witnesses are become so numerous and are so openly caress'd and encourag'd, that no innocence is safe: That the terrour of these arbitrary and violent proceedings, is become dreadfull to all men, nor excepting the very army, where without any regard to past services, the poor soldier is expos'd to cruell and unmercifull punishments upon the testimony of secret informers without any other crime pretended but bare suspicion of affection to us and our Cause.

We think it therefore a farther duty incumbent upon us, as a Christian King, and the common father of our people to interpose on behalf of the innocent, and to forewarn all Judges, Justices, privy Councillors, or Councillors, Officers and Commanders in chief, Magistrates of all degrees Sheriffs and persons Sworn upon Jury's to take especial heed how they rashly involve themselves in the crime of persecuting the innocent, or dip their hands in the blood of the guilt-less: For we are resolv'd to keep a strict and exact account of the sufferings of the very meanest of our people.

And because amongst other poor, unmanly, and ungenerous practices, nothing has been so much encouraged, as slander and malicious aspersions upon our own person: we declare that we wou'd disdain even to recover our Throne by such vile arts, as are practis'd to keep us out of it: That we are incapable of using any methods even for our Restauration, but what are consistent with our honour and the dignity of our birth, despising all those unmannerly calumnys, which we scorn to retort even with truths unbecoming the Countenance of one Prince to an other.

There is one above us who can silence the Father of falshood when he pleases, and upon him we relye.



